

Extension Booklets
Treasury Branches
Arctic Watershed Diversion
Grassy Lake Material Yard
Mountain View Health Unit

WITHIN OUR BORDERS

Credit Unions
Hail Insurance
Public Buildings
Record Birth Rate
Debtors' Assistance

VOL. 4

MAY 1, 1952

No. 22

Four Rivers Could Be Diverted Into North Saskatchewan

Plan Of Water Resources Office Envisages Diversion From Arctic Watershed To Compensate For Irrigation Drain On South Saskatchewan

Water destined by nature to flow into the Arctic Ocean may some day find itself in the Hudson's Bay if a plan drafted by the Water Resources Office is put into effect.

In a report entitled "Possible Diversion from the Arctic Watershed to the Saskatchewan (Hudson's Bay) Drainage Basin," a plan is presented whereby the McLeod, Pembina, Lobstick and Wolf Rivers would be diverted into the North Saskatchewan River.

To Increase Volume of Water

Officials of the Water Resources Office are taking a long range view of the plan and would use such a scheme for increasing the volume of water rather than to provide water power.

Large quantities of water now are being diverted from the South Saskatchewan drainage for irrigation purposes in southern Alberta, and as more dry areas are developed, a smaller supply of water will flow to Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Alberta officials foresee the day when the neighboring provinces could complain of water shortages, so the diversion plan is designed to compensate for water used in the south.

Other factors are the proposed scheme to divert water from the North Saskatchewan to the Red Deer River for irrigation in the Hanna area, and the increased water consumption by the growing city of Edmonton. In addition, sprinkler irrigation could be used in the Edmonton area and controlled water could be of use in sewage dilution.

Although not a factor in the present plan, the report admits that power possibilities would exist in such a diversion scheme.

The area diverted to the Saskatchewan River would cover about 4,500 square miles where the annual runoff is approximately 2,250,000 acre feet. This would take about 1,000,000 acre feet of water from the Arctic drainage and divert it into the North Saskatchewan.

The first step would be to construct a dam on the McLeod River and divert water via a canal to the Lobstick River. The canal would cross Wolf River which also would be dammed and diverted. From the Lobstick the water would flow into Chip Lake to the Pembina River. A dam would divert the Pembina and a canal would carry the water across the height of land between the two drainage areas.

Diversion Routes

The canal could be diverted either into Wabamun Lake and reach the North Saskatchewan River above Edmonton, or flow into Round Lake, Isle Lake, Lac Ste. Anne, and along the Sturgeon River through Big Lake to the Saskatchewan. This would release water below Edmonton near Fort Saskatchewan.

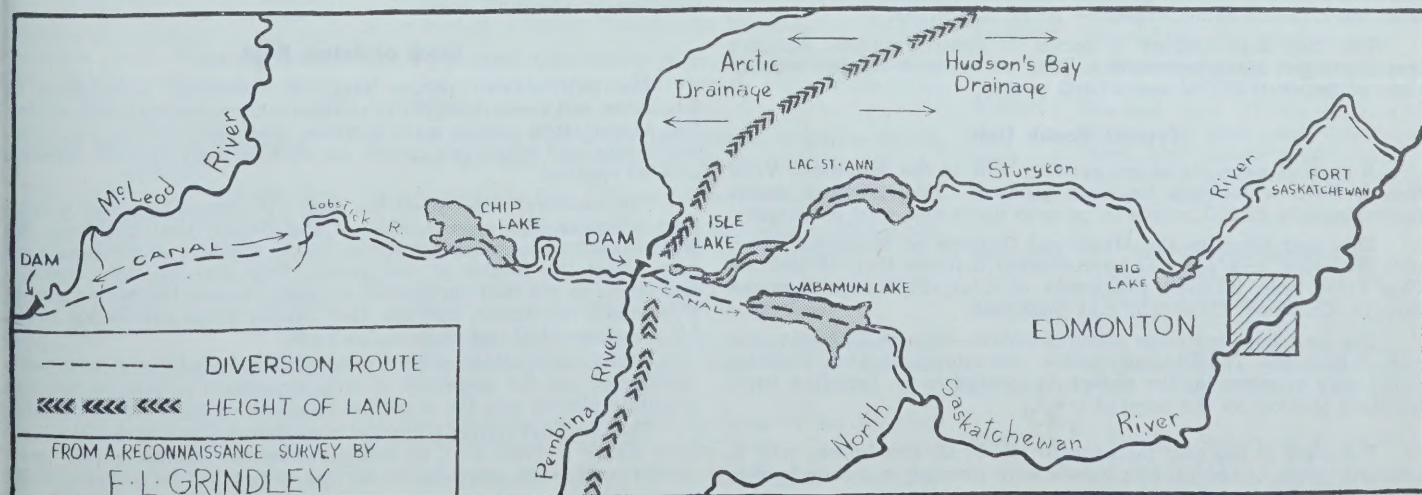
Geological reports indicate that most of the lakes in this area are remnants of one large lake, so that the basin between them would be ideal for water storage. The report states that while such a scheme would be expensive, it is quite feasible from an engineering viewpoint.

Drainage Basins

Drainage basins of the rivers are: McLeod, 1,900 square miles; Pembina, 1,700 square miles; Lobstick, 500 square miles and Wolf, 400 square miles. This makes a total of 4,500 square miles of drainage area.

The main stream of the Athabasca River, into which these rivers normally flow, would likely be unaffected by such a diversion and impounded water could be released during low water periods.

The Prairie Provinces Water Board is at present establishing allocations of water from the Saskatchewan River and soon a definite maximum will be placed on the amount of water Alberta may take from this drainage system. The diversion scheme remains as a possible source of water in the event that Alberta requires more than the allocation allows. However, the allocation is expected to be large enough that such a move would not be required for several years.



Mountain View Health Unit



A typical day's routine of the Mountain View Health Unit is illustrated in this series of photographs. At left, Dr. M. P. G. Rawlinson, Medical Officer of Health, examines a little girl. At centre, Miss Dorothy Ross, Public Health Nurse, pays a friendly call on a young mother and her family. At right, Miss Dorothy Nickel, Public Health Nurse, checks the weight of a healthy baby.

Health Units Protect The Health Of Rural Citizens

*Disease Prevention And Health Education Main Responsibilities Of Unit;
Province Pays Sixty Percent Of Costs*

Health Units, established by Alberta municipalities with the assistance of the Alberta Department of Public Health, are protecting the health of two-thirds of the Province's population.

Their work in dealing with the prevention of disease and promotion of good health, covers a wide range of activities, including the control and prevention of infectious diseases and a program of sanitation, post-natal and infant welfare services, school health service, first aid treatment, health education and advice on nutrition. In co-operation with the Department of Public Health, they engaged in programmes dealing with mental diseases, venereal disease and tuberculosis. This service is being provided to approximately two-thirds of the population of the Province.

Health Units are established by the Department of Public Health upon the request of the councils of cities, towns, villages and municipal districts. The area to be served is divided into wards, and a Board is appointed consisting of representatives of local contributing authorities.

Provincial Grant Provided

The board prepares a schedule of the services it intends to provide and outlines a budget for the year. The Department of Public Health provides a grant covering 60 percent of the budget, with the balance being raised by local authorities.

The unit may employ a doctor, a dentist, nurses, sanitary inspectors and steno-technicians. They serve areas having populations of between 20,000 and 50,000 people.

Typical Health Unit

A typical example of an existing unit is the Mountain View Health Unit, which has its main office in Didsbury and serves approximately 23,000 people in an area north and west of Calgary.

This unit takes in the Municipal Districts of Mountain View, and Waterloo, and parts of Improvement Districts Nos. 46 and 50. This large area includes the towns of Olds, Didsbury, Bowness, Sundre, Carstairs, Crossfield and Cochrane.

The unit has two main clinic premises—one at Didsbury and one at Bowness. The Didsbury office, containing working facilities and living quarters for the nurses, is located in an imposing brick building located on the edge of town.

The staff of the unit includes Dr. M. P. G. Rawlinson, who is medical officer of health, four nurses with training in public health, two stenographer-technicians and a sanitary inspector.

The staff is constantly on the move so that it can meet the heavy schedule of clinics in 15 different points in the unit each month, and the additional monthly clinics held at Olds, Didsbury, Bowness and Montgomery.

Dr. Rawlinson considers education as one of the most important phases of his work. The staff advises new mothers about the care of children, offering pamphlets and booklets, addressing church and school groups and giving talks and showing films in the rural school-rooms.

Clinic Day

When clinic day comes to Didsbury, the waiting room soon is filled with mothers and their children. The doctor or nurses give inoculations and vaccinations, examine the infants, talk to the mothers and advise them on the care of their children. The unit gives advice and tells when medical treatment is necessary.

Following the clinic day, the nurses may be in a rural school-house, giving physical examinations to all the Grade One students. The first year check usually is the most important in the Didsbury unit, although later checks often are made.

If a contagious disease breaks out within the unit, Dr. Rawlinson takes immediate steps. The unit is the serum centre of the area and local doctors can obtain the necessary materials for immunization within hours after the outbreak. The doctor may confer with the local practitioners and make any arrangements for the isolation of infectious cases.

Stock of Serum Kept

The unit obtains serum from the Provincial Laboratory at Edmonton and keeps a supply in storage in their medical refrigerator. The serum stock covers most common diseases such as smallpox, diphtheria and whooping cough, as well as more serious diseases such as typhoid.

The sanitary inspector of the unit, J. H. Broomhall, has a compact office on the ground floor of the Health Unit building. His work takes him to the many places within the unit where sanitation may affect the health of the public. One day he may check a restaurant to see that the kitchen is clean, inspect the water supply of a small settlement and see that proper steps are being taken for the disposal of garbage and sewage.

Other responsibilities that come under the sanitary inspector's jurisdiction are the inspection of milk supplies, checking ventilation in public places, and the inspection of food for public consumption.

The Didsbury unit is typical of most Health Units in the Province. Each plays a vital part in safeguarding the health of the community and each provides a service which would otherwise be unavailable.

Hail Coverage Record Set

The Alberta Hail Insurance Board last year recorded the largest volume of business ever written by any one hail insurance organization in the history of the Province.

During the year, 3,857,123 acres of crops were insured by 21,200 farmers at a premium cost totalling \$2,331,780, representing an average cost of 60 cents per acre. The risk liability assumed by the board amounted to \$29,493,568.

During the year, claims totalling \$2,149,062 were paid on 552,139 acres of crop. Owing to the extensive hail damage throughout the Province during the year, the premium income was insufficient to meet expenditures by approximately \$200,000. This amount was paid out of the board's reserve fund which now stands at \$1,960,000.

Collections have been most satisfactory with all premiums paid in full to December 31, 1950. As at December 31, 1951, outstanding premium on the current year's business amounted to \$140,000. This is accounted for by the fact that over 30 percent of grain crops throughout the Province are still unthreshed. It is expected that these arrears will be paid in full when delayed harvesting can be completed. ●

Irrigation Material Stored At Yard

One of the largest material yards established in Alberta now is in operation at Grassy Lake, near Lethbridge, supplying materials for provincial government work on the St. Mary-Milk Rivers Development.

The yard contains huge supplies of treated and untreated lumber, cement, steel culverts, reinforcing steel and other construction materials.

These materials are used in the construction of water control structures in the canal system of the irrigation development, bridges which cross the canals, culverts for drainage, houses for personnel and other structures. All the supplies are bought through the Alberta Purchasing Agency. At the peak of the construction year, there is more than \$500,000 worth of supplies in the yard. ●

FORT MACLEOD TOURIST BUREAU

The Fort Macleod Information Bureau, sponsored jointly by the Alberta Branch of the Pacific Northwest Travel Association and the Government of Alberta, will open June 1 to provide tourist information for visitors to Alberta.

The bureau is being renovated and landscaped in preparation for the tourist season. Teletype and telephone communications again will be available between the bureau and Edmonton, Banff and Calgary. ●

Value Of Alberta Farm Products Totals \$752,710,000 In 1951

The estimated value of Alberta agricultural products in 1951 is \$752,710,000, an increase of \$190,874,000 over the previous year.

Despite adverse weather conditions which retarded growth and interfered seriously with harvest operations, the total production of grain is estimated at 387,613,000 bushels, valued at \$444,060,000, as compared with 250,183,000 bushels valued at \$301,048,000 in 1950.

Much of the crop that was left in the fields last autumn is now being harvested in central and southern Alberta. A large portion of the 130,000,000 bushels of wheat, oats and barley is expected to be harvested within a few weeks. Northern Alberta was the only part of the Province that was able to complete harvesting operations last year.

Fodder crops in Alberta increased from 2,186,000 tons to 3,661,000 tons and in value from \$32,995,000 to \$52,704,000 as compared with the previous year while sugar beets and potato crops, amounting to 2,351,400 tons, valued at \$11,552,000, showed a decrease of \$1,536,000 as compared with the value of these products in 1950. Livestock marketings totalled 478,309 cattle and calves; 92,764 sheep and lambs; and 958,143 hogs, valued at \$166,307,000, an increase of \$13,950,000 over the previous year.

Dairy products valued at \$44,182,000 show an increase of \$4,738,000, while poultry products, valued at \$25,700,000, increased by \$5,434,000 over 1950.

The 1951 levels of agricultural production throughout the world varied considerably with North America showing the greatest increase with production now about 50 percent above pre-war levels. Smaller gains have been made in Latin America, Africa and Australia. In the Far East and Europe, present agricultural production is only slightly higher than in the pre-war period.

Indications are that the demand for agricultural products will remain generally high throughout 1952. While some price fluctuations are indicated, the general price level should be equal to, if not higher, than the 1951 average. Livestock producers particularly would be well advised not to permit occasional temporary price fluctuations to induce premature marketing. ●

Government To Spend \$7,544,450 On Public Buildings This Year

The Government of Alberta will provide a total of \$7,544,450 to build public buildings during the year. This money will be spent as follows:

To complete the Horticultural Building, Brooks.....	\$150,000
To construct a staff building at Central Alberta Sanatorium, Calgary	\$150,000
To complete two new dormitories and to construct one new dormitory at the Provincial Training School, Red Deer	\$250,000
For the completion of the Administration Building and the construction of an admission ward and a Nurses' Home at the Provincial Mental Hospital, Oliver.....	\$400,000
For the construction of a dormitory and to complete one dormitory at the Provincial Mental Hospital, Ponoka	\$200,000
To construct a Blood Transfusion Building at Calgary	\$150,000
For the partial construction of an Agricultural Building and an Engineering Building at the University of Alberta	\$750,000
For the construction of the Department of Public Works storage and maintenance shop, garage, etc.....	\$267,000
To complete the new Administration Building, Edmonton	\$600,000
For the construction of Provincial Buildings at Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Peace River and Calgary.....	\$510,000
For the completion of Court Houses and Land Titles Buildings at Edmonton and Lethbridge.....	\$625,000
For the construction of cell blocks at Fort Saskatchewan Jail and general construction at the Bowden Institute	\$1,085,000
For the construction of a new building at the Institute of Technology and Arts at Calgary.....	\$600,000
For miscellaneous construction on Public Buildings throughout the Province	\$1,407,450

Larger Business Volume For Treasury Branches

The volume of business conducted through the provincial Treasury Branches showed a substantial increase during the past year. As at December 31, 1951, deposits by the public totalled \$32,030,139 and represented 56,502 depositors. Outstanding loans at the same date amounted to \$18,555,917, inclusive of loans to school divisions, municipalities, co-operative associations and other guaranteed accounts, amounting to \$2,729,031.

Investments from the depositors reserve trust account in Dominion of Canada bonds, totalled \$13,300,000 and cash holdings amounted to \$2,032,193.

Revenues for the past fiscal year exceeded expenditures by \$76,276 and of this amount \$71,612 was transferred to the reserve fund for bad and doubtful debts, making total credits to the fund of \$200,112. Charges against the reserve fund, less subsequent recoveries, amount to \$84,383, leaving a balance in the fund as at March 31, 1951, of \$115,729.

Forty-five branches, 14 sub-branches and 106 agencies, with a staff of 346, are in operation. ●

190 Credit Unions Operate In Alberta

As at December 31, 1951, there were 461 Co-operative Associations actively in operation as compared with 395 at December 31, 1950.

Rural electrification co-operative associations have been particularly active and increased from 125 to 180 during the last calendar year. Through these associations, approximately 13,740 farms have been provided with electric power up to December 31, 1951.

The Province has guaranteed loans totalling \$3,352,800 to assist in the installation of these rural power lines and this assistance will be continued throughout the ensuing year.

Membership in credit unions throughout the Province increased from 27,951 to 28,455 during the past year. One hundred and ninety credit unions are now in operation with assets of \$5,033,597. ●

CHICKENS INCREASE

The number of chickens in Alberta increased during 1951 to 5,780,000, an increase of 577,000 from the 1950 total. The number of laying hens decreased from 3,345,000 in 1950 to 3,250,000 in 1951.

Turkeys increased from 386,000 to 500,000 in 1951; geese from 56,000 to 77,000 and ducks from 32,000 to 56,000. ●

Services Of Government Board Available To Debtors

Thousands of Alberta debtors have escaped court action and hundreds of creditors who otherwise might never have been paid have found satisfaction through the efforts of the Debtors' Assistance Board set up by the Government of Alberta in 1943. This Board succeeded the Debt Adjustment Board which had been established in 1923.

The Board has accomplished amicable settlement of thousands of debt cases. From April 1, 1943, to December 31, 1951, the Board settled 2,722 debt cases involving total debts of \$2,862,597. This total debt was settled for a net saving to the debtors of \$1,421,783.

The powers of the Board as set out in The Debtors' Assistance Act of 1943 are limited to advising and assisting debtors in adjusting their debts and working out settlements with their creditors; arranging meetings between debtors and creditors and mediating in debt negotiations. Since 1943, more than 1,200 debtors have been given assistance in foreclosure cases while more than 5,000 citizens have received assistance in adjusting their debts.

Under the act, creditors as well as debtors may apply and seek assistance from the board in an attempt to negotiate amicable settlements. Most of the present cases coming before the board involve young married couples who have committed themselves too heavily on instalment purchases or have incurred debts on current accounts such as grocery, hospital and medical services bills.

Debtors may apply to the board for assistance in the negotiation of a settlement with their creditors. The board asks creditors to pool their claims against the debtor with the board and then the debtor makes fixed monthly payments to the board. These payments are distributed among the creditors on a pro rata basis and so long as the monthly payments continue, the debtor is free from legal action.

A debtor faced with foreclosure proceedings may also receive assistance. In such cases, the board negotiates with the creditor in the hope of getting an extension of time for payment. When adjournments or extensions are granted by the courts, the board keeps a close check on the case and urges the debtor to make payments on time, and otherwise assists the creditors as much as possible so that the foreclosure proceedings may be delayed longer.

The Debtors' Assistance Board is located in the Land Titles Building at Edmonton. ●

Alberta Sets New Record For Births In 1951

The largest number of birth in Alberta's history was recorded last year, according to the Vital Statistics Division of the Department of Public Health.

Preliminary figures released by the division show 26,613 births for 1951, or a birth rate of 28.4 per 1,000 population. Although the number of births has increased, the birth rate is approximately the same as in the past three years.

The death rate was lower than previous years, with only 7,086 deaths, or a death rate of 7.5 recorded in 1951. This is the lowest rate since 1939. Deaths from infectious diseases and accidents also were down last year, although an increase was shown in the number of motor vehicle traffic fatalities.

The marriage rate was average last year, with a total of 9,246 marriages recorded, giving a marriage rate of 9.8 per 1,000 population.

Total population last year was 939,501, an 18 percent increase over the 796,169 population of 1941. Edmonton and Calgary are the two fastest growing cities in Canada. ●

Revised Pamphlet Provides General Alberta Information

A completely revised edition of the popular pamphlet, "Alberta At A Glance," has been prepared by the Publicity Branch of the Department of Economic Affairs and now is ready for distribution to persons seeking general information on the Province.

The inside of the booklet is taken up by an up-to-date road map of Alberta, while other sections deal with such topics as climate, population, agriculture, power resources, forestry, manufacturing, education, oil and natural gas, coal and transportation. ●

More Than 200,000 Free Booklets Distributed Yearly By Extension Service

A young bride in the Athabasca district has to cook her first meal, so she picks up a copy of "Tips on Food Preparation." A farmer in the Cardston area is having trouble with his new litter of pigs, so he thumbs through a copy of "Diseases of Suckling Pigs."

Every day, similar scenes are enacted throughout rural Alberta where a farm booklet is consulted for information on a particular problem. The difficulties can be encountered in all phases of farm life, but a ready solution likely can be found in a farm booklet.

The Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture distributes more than 200,000 free booklets every year, and publishes 147 different booklets, leaflets, circulars and mimeographs. There are such down-to-earth subjects as the use of fertilizers, turkey raising, Bang's disease, beekeeping and grain drying, or detailed information on more obscure subjects such as control of leafy spurge and over-shot hay stackers.

Special problems are dealt with in booklets like "New Method of Washing Cream Separators in Two Minutes" or "Longer Life for Rubber Liners of Milking Machines," while general problems are covered in "Rye in Alberta" or "Alberta Horticultural Guide."

The farm women, too, can be well equipped with the latest information. Main subjects covered include cooking, canning, sewing, home planning and interior decoration, while other booklets give detailed information on stain removal, beauty preparations and judging food.

Through an Extension Service booklet, any farm woman can learn how to conduct a meeting, make a stuffed elephant or a berry preserve. Most popular booklets are "Tips on Food Preparation," "Economic Luncheon and Supper Dishes," "Preserve by Freezing," and "Lunch Boxes and Hot School Lunches."

Most of the booklets are prepared by specialists in the Department of Agriculture, while a few are stocked from the University of Alberta and the Federal Department of Agriculture.

New booklets are sent to all district agriculturists in the Province and advertised in farm weekly newspapers. Copies of home economics booklets often are used in conjunction with courses taken by women's clubs or are distributed at discussion on home economics.

The Extension Service supplies booklets free of charge and mails a list of publications in stock with each request. Booklets or lists on home economics or agriculture may be obtained from Extension Service, Department of Agriculture, Edmonton. ●

Photographic Bureau Produces Two New Films

Two new films have been produced by the Film and Photographic Bureau of the Department of Economic Affairs.

"Resources for Industry," a new industrial film, is now ready for distribution. It is approximately 12 minutes in duration and shows in color the varied natural resources of the Province. Starting with agriculture, the cameras sweep through lumbering, coal mining, oil production and other basic Alberta industries. Transportation, oil and natural gas, and manpower are also covered.

The second film is "The Alberta Story," a 45-minute color film which deals with the growth of the services offered by the Government of Alberta during the past 15 years.

The film depicts the services provided by all government departments and explains in detail the benefits provided by these services. Included are such public services as the District Agriculturist Service of the Alberta Department of Agriculture, the tuberculosis and cancer services of the Department of Health and the conservation measures of the government. The film will be ready for distribution next month. It was produced entirely by government personnel. ●

"Within Our Borders" is a publication designed to acquaint the people of the Province with the administration and services of the Alberta Government.

It is believed the many and varied services of the Government will be effective in the degree they are known and used.

Any material used is for immediate republication. All photographs used are Alberta Government Photographs unless otherwise specified.

Correspondence should be addressed to "Within Our Borders," Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.



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